WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Promotion of High-Tech High value exports

3064. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recognized the need to promote high-tech high value exports from India to increase its market share of the world trade ; and

(b) if so, whether Government hve any definite plans to achieve this ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have recognized the need to promote high-tech high value exports from India. High tech high value export sectors such as software have registered consistent high growth during recent times. Government have initiated a number of steps to assist the industry through various promotional policy measures such as EPCG scheme, tax benefits to EOU/EPC/STP/EHTP units, Special Economic Zones, besides giving boost to infrastructural development for exports, schemes for technological upgradation and quality improvement and providing financial and credit facilities.

Registration of Tobacco Farmers with Tobacco Board

3065. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tobacco farmers registered with the Tobacco Board all over the country;

(b) the State-wise break-up for such registration ;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a large amount of tobacco coming in from unregistered farmers;

(d) whether any estimate has been made of this quantity; and

(e) the details of tobacco estimated to be grown in different States without registration ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The total number of tobacco farmers currently registered with the Tobacco Board in the country is 63051.